

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mrs. CHRISTENSEN addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maine (Mr. ALLEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. ALLEN addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mr. HINCHEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. HINCHEY addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. NORTON addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### AMERICA'S HEALTH CARE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the issue of America's health care. Are we better off than we were 4 years ago? A quick look at the facts tells us that we are far from it.

Just this summer, the Census Bureau announced that the number of people without health insurance nationwide went up by 1.4 million—the third annual increase in a row. Forty-five million people are uninsured, many because they have lost their jobs. Over 5 million people have lost their health insurance since the beginning of the Bush administration.

The Current Population Survey (CPS) is the primary source for data on Texas' uninsured population. It paints a picture for the state of health care in Texas. My home State currently has the second highest rate of uninsured in the United States behind New Mexico. CPS data shows that there were 4.5 million people without health insurance in Texas, which is about 21.4 percent of the total population.

The President said we're turning the corner, but we have to look at the facts. Efforts to improve our economy are not reaching people of color.

African Americans are losing their jobs at nearly twice the national average. Latino unemployment hovers near a 5-year high. These numbers are an outrage and are unacceptable.

The higher unemployment rate for people of color is a major contributing factor to the health disparity affecting a large percentage of

uninsured minorities. Blacks and Latinos are far more likely to be uninsured when compared to their Anglo counterparts.

Nationally, 11.6 percent of the Anglo population, 20.1 percent of the African-American population and 34.8 percent of the Hispanic population are without health insurance. In my home State of Texas, while 12 percent of whites are uninsured, 21.2 percent of African Americans and 36.7 percent of Hispanics do not have medical coverage.

Unfortunately, the rates for children without health coverage are also reaching alarming numbers.

In the United States today, one in five children is without health insurance. In fact, in my home State of Texas 1.6 million children depend solely on health insurance provided by Medicaid. Limited access to health care contributes to growing rates of disease among children.

Studies have shown that good health is a prerequisite for optimal learning and schools can help studies achieve academic success by participating in efforts that promote good health, including access to regular medical and mental health care.

Protecting the health care of children should be the number one priority of any great nation. An investment in the health care of our youth is one of the wisest investments we can make for the future of this country.

Now, Mr. Speaker, when it comes to health care, we are not better off than we were 4 years ago, and we can and should do better.

Now is the time for all Americans to have access to quality health care and meaningful patient protection. Our citizens deserve and expect nothing less.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. SHERMAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. SHERMAN addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. LANGEVIN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. LANGEVIN addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATSON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. WATSON addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. TURNER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. TURNER of Texas addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. RYAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. RYAN of Ohio addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. INSLEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. INSLEE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 5 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

#### EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

10011. A letter from the Deputy Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting Certification that the total cost for the planning, design, construction, and installation of equipment for the renovation of Wedges 2 through 5 of the Pentagon, cumulatively, will not exceed four times the total cost for the planning, design, construction and installation of equipment for the renovation of Wedge 1, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 2674 Public Law 108-87, section 8055(a); to the Committee on Armed Services.

10012. A letter from the Under Secretary for Personnel and Readiness, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the approved retirement of Admiral Frank L. Bowman, United States Navy, and his advancement to the grade of admiral on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

10013. A letter from the Under Secretary for Personnel and Readiness, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the approved retirement of Vice Admiral James C. Dawson, Jr., United States Navy, and his advancement to the grade of vice admiral on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

10014. A letter from the Under Secretary for Personnel and Readiness, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the approved retirement of General Hal M. Hornburg, United States Air Force, and his advancement to the grade of general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

10015. A letter from the Under Secretary for Personnel and Readiness, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the approved retirement of Admiral Thomas B. Fargo, United States Navy, and his advancement to the grade of admiral on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

10016. A letter from the Acting Under Secretary for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics, Department of Defense, transmitting the DoD Mentor-Protege Program Annual Report for 2004, pursuant to Public Law 101-510, section 831; to the Committee on Armed Services.

10017. A letter from the Deputy Chief of Naval Operations (Manpower and Personnel), Department of Defense, transmitting notification of a decision to convert to contractor performance by private sector Public Works Center Maintenance and Hazardous Materials of the Washington, DC metro area (initiative number NC20010699); to the Committee on Armed Services.